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Farm Broadcasters Letter

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WHEAT SALE TO USSR

Private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Oct. 1 the export sales of 200,000 metric tons of hard red winter wheat for delivery to the USSR during the 1984-85 marketing year and under the second year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the second year of the agreement beginning Oct. 1, 1984, now total 9,159,700 tons, of which wheat is 1,560,500 tons and corn is 7,599,200 tons. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the first year of the agreement total 14,575,500 tons, of which wheat is 7,812,700 tons and corn is 6,762,900 tons.

USSR GRAIN HARVEST

In the USSR, the most recent harvest progress report stated that as of Sept. 24, some 101.2 million hectares of small grains and pulses had been cut, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This compares with 107.8 million cut by Sept. 26 last year and 109.3 million by Sept. 27, 1982. The report stated that significant amounts of grain had not been harvested in several specific areas and that 15 pct. of the crop in the largest republic in the USSR was still standing. The corn area harvested for grain as of Sept. 24 was given as 1,052,000 hectares, compared with 1.9 million a year ago.

U.K. GRAIN PRODUCTION

The total grain production in the United Kingdom for 1984/85 is estimated at a record 26.14 million tons, 22 pct. above last year's harvest, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Wheat production is estimated at a record 14.8 million tons, 36 pct. above last year's previous record harvest, while coarse grain production is forecast at 11.34 million, an increase of 5 pct. from 1983/84. Ideal growing conditions and the use of higher yielding wheat varieties are the primary factors for the increase in production.

EMERGENCY FEED FOR TEXAS

Sec'y of Agriculture John Block designated three counties in Texas: Hood, Johnson and Somervell, eligible for the Emergency Feed Assistance Program. Severe drought has resulted in crop and pasture feed losses. Eligible farmers and ranchers in these counties may apply to their county ASCS offices to purchase Commodity Credit Corporation-owned low grade corn to feed their foundation livestock.

WHEAT DEMAND HIGH

The 1984 U.S. wheat crop will be the third largest on record, at 2.57 billion bushels, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Larger world demand, especially Soviet, should push disappearance to an all time high.

MEAT SUPPLY
LARGE

Greater red meat supplies than earlier anticipated, combined with further gains expected in poultry, will result in 1985 per capita meat supplies being only modestly below those in 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The latest Hogs and Pigs report indicates slightly larger pork production than previously expected. At the same time, continued inadequate forage and some producers' financial problems have prompted higher estimates of beef cow slaughter. Favorable returns to broiler producers over the past year have encouraged sharply expanded production through at least the first half of 1985.

MEAT, POULTRY
AND INCOME

Although meat supplies remain large, the income of most feeder animal producers is expected to rise next year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Lower feed costs will probably provide the biggest boost. In addition, revenue may increase as livestock prices strengthen, supported by continued economic growth. Broiler producers may see lower returns as production rises, and prices decline somewhat. However, returns will remain positive. The costs of production for poultry are also forecast to decline as feed costs fall...and rises in nonfeed costs continue modest.

SOYBEAN RATES
GRADING #2

The basic county loan and purchase rates for 1984-crop soybeans grading no. 2 are based on the national average loan and purchase rate of \$5.02 per bushel. Changes in the area-to-area relationships, prices received by farmers, trends in production and results of the loan and purchase program resulted in the U.S. Department of Agriculture making some adjustments from the 1983 rates. Copies of the rates are available from the state offices of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. Also from ASCS, USDA, P.O. Box 2415, Wash., D.C. 20013, or by calling (202) 447-9880.

CORN AND
SOYBEANS

September corn crop prospects were lowered because of drought in some areas, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. However, production will still be well above last year's. For soybeans, larger-than-expected stocks have contributed to the weak prices.

STATUS OF
RESERVE
CORN

Producers may no longer repay loans without penalty on corn placed in the farmer-owned reserve from Oct. 6, 1981 through June 30, 1982 (reserve IV), according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The national average adjusted price of \$2.79 per bushel for corn on Oct. 1 was 36 cents below its reserve IV release level. Storage payments for reserve IV corn will continue to be earned in all states.

STATUS OF
RESERVE OATS

Oats will remain in release status through October, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. On Oct. 1, the national average adjusted price for oats was \$1.67 per bushel, 2 cents above the commodity's reserve release level. The storage payments for oats remain stopped.

INTEREST RATE:
11-3/4%

Commodity loans disbursed in October by the U.S. Department of Agriculture will carry an 11-3/4 percent interest rate, down from 11-7/8 percent.

FROM OUR TELEVISION USDA NO. 221 FRUIT OUTLOOK. Smaller supplies and rising demand this SERVICE fall are expected to keep fruit prices above a year earlier. USDA economist Ben Huang discusses the current outlook and what it will mean for producers. Victor Powell interviews.

USDA NO. 222 FARM CREDIT INITIATIVE - I. Charles Shuman, Administrator, Farmers Home Admin., talks about the Farm Credit Initiative - what it is, and its importance to farmers. DeBoria Janifer interviews.

USDA NO. 223 FARM CREDIT INITIATIVE - II. The Farm Credit Initiative was recently announced to help farmers who are burdened by debt to recover so they can continue on as productive farmers. FmHA administrator Charles Shuman continues his discussion of this program. DeBoria Janifer interviews.

USDA NO. 224 FARM CREDIT INITIATIVE - III. Under the Farm Credit Initiative, Farmers Home Admin. will provide a pilot project to contract loan services. FmHA Administrator Charles Shuman focuses on this service under this program. DeBoria Janifer interviews.

USDA NO. 225 FARM LABOR. USDA economist Leslie Whitener focuses on the changes taking place with today's hired farmworker and factors contributing to this situation. Dave Carter interviews.

SEC'Y BLOCK
TO CANADA

Sec'y of Agriculture John R. Block is scheduled to visit Canada on Oct. 17 - 18 to meet with agricultural officials and other government representatives. The purpose of the visit is to discuss farm trade issues between the two countries. Block is to meet with John Wise, Canada's new agriculture minister, and Charles Mayer, the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

CANKER
NO THREAT
TO HUMANS

Citrus canker, a plant disease discovered in Florida in late August, poses absolutely no health hazard to consumers of fresh fruit or processed citrus products and should not significantly affect supplies, according to C. W. McMillan, Ass't Sec'y of Ag. for Marketing and Inspection Services. Supplies of processed citrus products, which are being shipped from inventories produced last season are unaffected. To date, no evidence of the disease was found outside of nurseries that propagate young trees.

CONDITIONAL
PERMIT FOR
VACCINE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, at the request of the sheep industry, has issued a conditional permit allowing foot-rot vaccine to be imported from New Zealand. The vaccine, intended to prevent the disease, should be available by mid-October. The conditional federal permit will be replaced with an unrestricted permit when the importer completes the required documentation and studies of effectiveness. Until then, the importer will have to obtain permission from proper state animal health authorities in each state where the vaccine is distributed.

BEAK
COUNT

The preliminary total of live weight poultry inspections was 2.04 billion pounds for August 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Inspections included 1.61 billion pounds of young chickens, 75.1 million pounds of mature chickens, 336 million pounds of turkeys and 10.6 million pounds of ducks.

OFF MIKE

It's a skinny column this week, and what we have are bits of information about the Radio and Television staff members here. Doug Wakefield is off for three weeks getting acquainted with his new work dog, "Dutch." He called to report his new assistant, who will replace "Poe," is a strapping big German shepherd ... Gary Crawford is fighting off a husky throat problem and there is nothing more frustrating than a producer of radio material with a throat problem ... Don Elder was asked to sub for Sec. Block in the annual charity running event which pits the Executive and Legislative Branches against the media. Don's only comment on his performance was, "I did finish the race." ... And Jim is home fighting the blahs or whatever the doctor ends up calling it ... We just learned that Layne Beatty's father died in Oklahoma on Sept. 23.

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1427 ... (Weekly 13½ min documentary) Lynn Wyvill visits a County Fair and has a really good time....See ya at the fair on the next edition....

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1416 ... (Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Farming is unsafe according to the latest statistics; Rural housing report; Bio-tech fertilizer.

CONSUMER TIME #909 ... (Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) Your long distance options; Ultrasonic pest control; Vitamin C & stomach cancer; More meat from giant livestock; Rural housing.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Thurs., Oct. 11, World crop production and U.S. crop production reports; Fri, Oct. 12, World tobacco situation, Soviet grain situation, World ag. supply and demand. Mon, Oct. 15, World grain situation and outlook; Tues, Oct. 16, Milk production report, Weekly crop and weather outlook. Dial the USDA National News Lines 202/488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EDT each working day.


JAMES L. JOHNSON
Chief, Radio and Television Division